



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SQM INFORMS THE ACQUISITION OF THE IODINE BUSINESS
OF DSM COMPANY**

Santiago, Chile, January 19, 2006.- Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) (NYSE: SQM, SQMA; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) informed today that it has acquired the iodine and iodine derivatives business of the Dutch “DSM Group”.

The transaction includes the iodine and iodine derivatives facilities located in the first region of Chile and the mining reserves located in the first and second region of Chile. Additionally, SQM acquired DSM's iodine and iodine derivatives commercial operation in Europe. Currently, DSM's iodine production capacity is of approximately 2.2 th. metric tons per year. SQM currently participates in the iodine derivatives business through a JV, Ajay-SQM Group.

“This acquisition will provide us logistics, commercial and productive synergies”, explained SQM’s CEO, Patricio Contesse. He added, “This transaction shows SQM’s commitment with the development and strengthening of its core businesses and with the iodine industry as part of its strategy to be a long term reliable iodine supplier”.

The agreement involves a base payment of US\$72 million plus all the cash, accounts receivable and final product inventories minus the total liabilities of the Chilean and Dutch companies considered in the transaction.

SQM is an integrated producer and distributor of specialty plant nutrients, iodine, lithium and industrial chemicals. Its products are based on the development of high quality natural resources that allow the Company to be leader in costs, supported by a specialized international network with sales in over 100 countries. SQM’s development strategy aims to maintain and strengthen the world leadership in its three main businesses: specialty plant nutrition, iodine and lithium.

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